

Dedication

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I am delighted that the Law Review has chosen to dedicate this issue to the memory of Nat Nathanson. Others writing in this Review, Justice John Paul Stevens, Professors Carl Auerbach, Kenneth Culp Davis, Willard Pedrick, and Judge Louis Welsh, can speak more knowledgeably about Nat, based upon many years of friendship. Although I met Nat and his wife Leah only two years before Nat died, I feel that I have known both for years. Nat has made a major impact in my life and I was very deeply affected by his death.

By why did such a brief friendship with Nat affect me so? I have thought a lot about the reasons and there are many. First of all, Nat was a giant in two separate and equally difficult fields: constitutional law and administrative law. His scholarly contributions in each of these fields was enormous and significant. Nat also contributed so much to all of us with his insights on legal process and legal history. This was particularly true in his writings about Justices Frankfurter and Brandeis and his analysis of issues relating to judicial restraint.

His bent for scholarship did not ebb over time at all. Some of his most recent work was among his best. So, the ongoing opportunity just to talk to Nat, and his mere presence here, was a tremendous dividend to me and to everyone at the University of San Diego. It took minutes, not years, to discover the richness of his knowledge and the diversity of his concerns.

There was far more than that, however. Nat had features that were truly unusual and special. Foremost among them were Nat's personal qualities: his gentleness, his lively and inquiring mind, and his obvious love of teaching and learning. Nat was the epitome of the

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very few law professors whom we each meet and revere in our lifetimes, and whom we try so much to emulate. There is an unfortunate but perhaps necessary hardness in legal education. It tends to permeate even the way in which we as law professors deal with each other. We rarely talk to students or each other in human terms. More often than not, we talk through hypotheticals, abstractions, and analogies. Maybe it has to be this way. Nat used these analytical tools too, and very effectively, but his own personal views and human concerns always came through. Nat was, in other words, a whole person in a setting which too often is an overly intellectual and sterile environment.

I quickly developed a real closeness to and admiration for Nat for another reason. I came to the University of San Diego in 1981 as a comparatively young dean with great ambition for my new school. I learned in a hurry about the inevitable isolation of deans; the problems in trying to meld the needs and concerns of faculty, students, staff, the Administration, and outside support groups; and the complex issues facing legal education and the profession in the 1980's. On two or three occasions when I was really "down" and feeling particularly overwhelmed or vulnerable, Nat would take me for walks around the campus. By the time the walk was over and I returned to my office, I always felt better and was again able to laugh, mostly at myself. Nat had a remarkable way of getting me back to looking at the bigger picture and of rekindling my larger ambitions.

Thus, it did not take long for me to learn what a rare human being Nat was. I miss him now in so many ways. I miss his twinkling smile, his thoughtful questions, and his helpful suggestions. I also miss seeing Nat walking on campus, wearing a beret and sporting a cane and red suspenders.

Nat's being here one semester a year in recent times has had a lot to do with the University of San Diego's rapid development and growing prestige. Now, the Nathaniel L. Nathanson Memorial Lecture Series provides us with a fine opportunity to memorialize Nat's contributions to the law and the University of San Diego on a continuing basis. I would particularly like to thank Leah and the law faculty for helping to establish the Lecture Fund and to initiate the Series. Justice Stevens' willingness to be the inaugural speaker demonstrates the worthiness and the potential importance of this Lecture Series.